

GLOBALNEXUSBRIEF



TRAGEDY AT LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL PARADE

On May 26, during celebrations of Liverpool's Premier League title victory, a tragic incident occurred when a vehicle drove into a crowd of fans gathered near St George's Hall, injuring over 50 people, several critically. The driver, a 53-year-old man, was arrested at the scene and charged with attempted murder and driving under the influence of drugs.

Merseyside Police quickly ruled out terrorism as a motive, indicating early evidence points to a drug-induced episode or mental health crisis. However, the incident has sparked debate in the UK about event security, particularly crowd control measures for large-scale public gatherings.

SYRIA'S NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL

Syria's new president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, surprised regional observers by publicly expressing conditional openness to joining the Abraham Accords, a set of normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab states. Al-Sharaa stated that Syria would be willing to normalize relations if Israel ceases its airstrikes within Syrian territory and enters negotiations over the Golan Heights, a contested region annexed by Israel in 1981. The announcement marks a stark departure from Syria's decades-long hostility toward Israel and its alignment with Iran and Hezbollah.

INDIA LAUNCHES 'OPERATION SINDOOR'



In response to a deadly attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, on April 22, which killed 25 Indian citizens and one Nepali national, the Indian military launched Operation Sindoor in early May. The operation targeted suspected militant camps across the Line of Control, including in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The group believed responsible, The Resistance Front (TRF), is reportedly an offshoot of the Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba.



Middle East

Amid fears of escalation, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem traveled to Israel in late May to deliver a direct message from President Biden to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The message emphasized Washington's firm preference for a diplomatic resolution to the Iran nuclear issue and urged Israeli leaders to refrain from taking any unilateral military action that could jeopardize ongoing negotiations. During their meeting in Jerusalem, Noem reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to Israel's security while also highlighting the risks of disrupting talks.

In late May 2025, Turkey intensified its cross-border military operations in northern Iraq, targeting positions affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)—a group Ankara designates as a terrorist organization. Turkish drone and artillery strikes hit multiple areas in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), including remote villages near Duhok and Sinjar, killing at least 12 suspected militants and displacing dozens of civilians.



Israel's Preparations for a Potential Strike

Amid rising tensions and uncertainty surrounding Iran's nuclear program, U.S. intelligence agencies reported that Israel has stepped up preparations for a potential preemptive military strike on Iranian nuclear facilities. Satellite imagery and intercepted communications suggest that the Israeli Air Force has conducted long-range strike simulations, while political leaders in Tel Aviv have hardened their rhetoric about acting "with or without" U.S. backing.



Iran Offers Conditional Access to Nuclear Sites

In an effort to revive nuclear negotiations, Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami stated that Tehran may allow American IAEA inspectors to access sensitive nuclear facilities, provided that a new agreement with the U.S. is reached. This statement came ahead of a sixth round of indirect talks held in Rome, mediated by European and Omani diplomats. Eslami called the offer a "confidence-building measure" but stressed Iran's continued right to enrich uranium, a stance that has repeatedly stalled talks.

Europe



FRANCE ENFORCES STRICT BAN ON NICOTINE POUCHES

As of May 26, 2025, France has implemented a strict national ban on nicotine pouches, citing concerns over public health, especially among youth. The legislation criminalizes possession, sale, and consumption of the smokeless tobacco alternative. Offenders face penalties of up to €320,000 in fines and up to five years in prison—a scale of punishment usually reserved for hard drug offenses in the country.

EU Faces Migration Policy Rift



Amid a surge in arrivals from North Africa and the Balkans, EU leaders met in Brussels to address strain on asylum and border systems. Southern states urged mandatory relocation of asylum seekers, while Poland and Hungary opposed quotas, citing sovereignty. Some progress was made on strengthening Frontex and migration deals with Tunisia and Albania, but deep divisions persist. Talks resume in June, with Germany and France set to propose a compromise.

Russia Drills Near Baltics



Russia launched large-scale military drills near the borders of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, involving over 25,000 troops and heavy weaponry. Though labeled “defensive” by Moscow, NATO sees the move as a direct response to recent Western troop deployments, including Germany’s brigade to Lithuania. The exercises, featuring electronic warfare and rapid airborne mobilization, prompted NATO to raise alert levels in the Baltics. Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg called the drills “deliberately provocative.”

Germany’s Historic NATO Deployment

In a significant shift in its post-WWII military policy, Germany announced the permanent deployment of the 45th Tank Brigade to Lithuania, marking its first sustained foreign deployment of land forces in over 75 years. The unit, consisting of approximately 4,800 troops, will be fully operational by 2027, with construction of military housing and logistics hubs already underway. This move is widely viewed as a cornerstone of Germany’s evolving defense doctrine in response to heightened tensions with Russia, especially following its actions in Ukraine and continued military presence near NATO borders.

Africa



U.S. AID CUTS WORSEN SOMALIA SECURITY

The U.S. cut key support to Somalia's army in May, halting aid for fuel, food, and salaries—especially affecting Danab special forces. The move, part of a strategic shift, has weakened Somali troops and allowed al-Shabab to regain territory in Gedo and Lower Shabelle. The militant group is boosting its control by extorting locals and imposing its own laws. Somalia's government condemned the cuts, warning they threaten years of counterterrorism efforts. Clashes have displaced hundreds, raising concerns of regional instability in Kenya and Ethiopia.

U.S. Airstrikes at Kismayo



On May 17, AFRICOM launched airstrikes near Kismayo, targeting al-Shabab operatives and weapons caches after Somali forces requested urgent support. The strikes disrupted militant activity following an attack on a Danab base. Somalia praised the action, but experts caution that airstrikes alone can't replace long-term ground support. Humanitarian groups urged strict adherence to civilian protection laws. The operation signals continued U.S. counterterrorism involvement despite reduced on-the-ground presence.

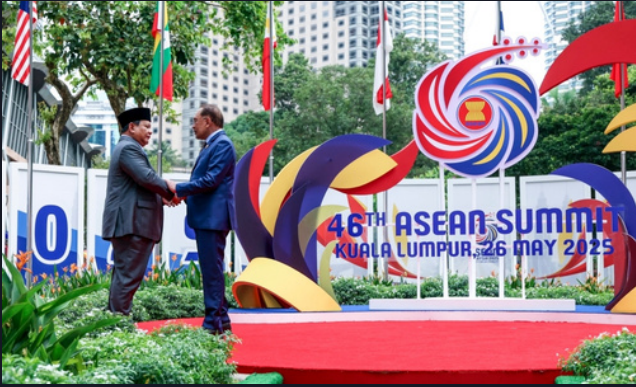
Turkey Expands Role in Somalia



With U.S. support declining, Turkey has increased its presence in Somalia, expanding military training, supplying drones, and launching joint maritime patrols. It also signed oil exploration deals, raising concerns among regional powers like Kenya and the UAE. Turkey's visible infrastructure projects have boosted its popularity, though some fear rising dependency and internal tensions. Analysts warn Somalia could become a stage for rival power influence, with the U.S. cautioning against uncoordinated security efforts.

U.S. Weighs AFRICOM-EUCOM Merger

The U.S. is considering merging Africa Command (AFRICOM) with European Command (EUCOM) to streamline operations, as revealed by General Michael Langley at a defense summit in Nairobi. AFRICOM, based in Germany since 2008, has led U.S. military efforts in Africa. The proposal has sparked concern among African Union officials, who fear it may reduce U.S. focus on key regional threats like terrorism and piracy.



Asia

On May 27, leaders from ASEAN, GCC, and China met in Kuala Lumpur to boost economic ties amid rising U.S. tariffs. China's Premier Li Qiang called for dismantling trade barriers and strengthening multilateralism. Talks focused on supply chains, digital infrastructure, and energy cooperation, with a shared push against unilateral sanctions and a move toward South-South economic leadership.

In late May, North Korea launched two ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan, its first test since February, following a U.S.-South Korea-Japan summit on regional security. Pyongyang claimed the launches were a "deterrent" against U.S. military drills and hinted at new warhead capabilities. South Korea responded with live-fire drills, and Japan lodged a formal protest.



Violence Escalates in Indonesia's Papua

Violence surged in Indonesia's Highland Papua in May, with separatist raids on mining sites leading to civilian deaths. The Indonesian military responded with large-scale operations, killing 18 militants and regaining key areas. Rooted in long-standing calls for independence and resource control, the conflict drew scrutiny from rights groups over civilian harm and media access.



China Urges Global Trade Overhaul

At the Kuala Lumpur summit, Premier Li Qiang called for reshaping global trade systems, criticizing Western-dominated structures. He proposed alternatives involving ASEAN, BRICS, and Gulf nations, aiming to reduce dependence on the IMF and World Bank. The plan reflects China's bid to elevate Global South leadership in global economic governance and attracted cautious interest.



America

In early May, the U.S. and China agreed to a 90-day suspension of select tariffs to ease trade tensions and stabilize supply chains. China will boost agricultural imports and ease tech restrictions, while the U.S. aims to curb inflation. Though welcomed by markets, the deal drew criticism from protectionist groups in both nations. Broader disputes on tech and security remain unresolved.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum hit an 85% approval rating in May, driven by economic reforms and strong U.S. relations. She's advanced climate, healthcare, and education initiatives while managing border and trade issues with Washington. Critics point to her military ties and slow judicial reforms, but her leadership is widely seen as pragmatic and effective.



Violence Undermines Mexico's Progress

Despite political gains, Mexico continues to face cartel violence and rising enforced disappearances, especially in Tamaulipas, Sonora, and Sinaloa. Watchdogs report threats to journalists and activists. While federal resources have increased, victims' families demand faster, more independent investigations. The unrest poses challenges to Sheinbaum's security agenda.



Canada Launches \$42B Climate Plan

Amid record wildfires that burned over 3 million hectares by late May, Canada announced a \$42 billion climate resilience plan. Prime Minister Trudeau pledged investments in fire-resistant infrastructure, clean energy, and disaster response to meet 2030 emissions targets. While environmental groups praised the move, critics flagged continued oil subsidies and lack of consultation with provinces.



Global Youth Unemployment Surges to Crisis Levels in 2025

In May 2025, governments, economists, and international organizations raised alarms over a deepening global youth unemployment crisis, which has emerged as one of the most pressing socioeconomic challenges of the post-pandemic era.

New data released by the International Labour Organization (ILO) showed that global youth unemployment had reached 15.8%, the highest level since 2012, with over 73 million young people aged 15 to 24 currently unemployed. The situation is particularly acute in developing countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, but advanced economies are also grappling with job market stagnation among recent graduates.

Analysts attribute the crisis to several converging factors: the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the automation of entry-level jobs, reduced investment in education-to-work pathways, and economic slowdowns triggered by geopolitical tensions.

In countries like Nigeria, Brazil, India, and Spain, youth frustration has led to rising emigration, increased mental health issues, and growing participation in protest movements demanding education reform, employment guarantees, and better labor protections.

In response, the United Nations, the World Bank, and major regional blocs announced emergency policy initiatives, including youth entrepreneurship funds, vocational training expansion, and incentives for youth hiring in green and digital sectors. However, implementation remains uneven, and many young people feel excluded from decision-making processes that directly impact their future.

The crisis has renewed global conversations about intergenerational equity, economic transformation, and the future of work—placing young people at the center of one of the defining challenges of the decade.

Thank you for reading!

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